

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

AMA Journal Decides To Withhold Reports On Dogs and Smoking

Controversial Tests Supposedly
Caused Cancer; the Magazine
Says Articles Need Revision

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter

CHICAGO — The Journal of the American Medical Association has decided not to publish two previously announced reports on a controversial experiment with dogs that is supposed to link cigaret smoking with lung cancer.

But the magazine, which is probably the most widely read medical journal in the U.S., insists that the articles haven't been rejected outright but simply returned for revision.

The reports have been causing controversy since early May, when the Tobacco Institute, the industry's trade association, announced it was mounting a major attack against the validity of the researchers' findings.

The articles describe the results of a 2½-year experiment on 94 pedigreed beagle dogs that was carried out by two eminent scientists. The American Cancer Society has claimed that the experiment was significant in at least two ways: It produced lung cancer as a result of cigaret smoking in a significantly large experimental animal, and it marked the first time that cancer had been induced in laboratory animals by causing them to inhale tobacco smoke.

Dr. Hugh H. Hussey, editor of the medical publication, denied in an interview that the articles had been rejected for publication. "They are not acceptable for publication in their present form," he said. The articles have been returned to their authors he said, for "extensive revision."

The two scientists who carried out the experiment are Dr. E. Cuyler Hammond, a vice president of the American Cancer Society, and Dr. Oscar Auerbach, senior medical investigator for the Veterans Administration Hospital, East Orange, N.J.

In telephone interviews yesterday, both Dr. Hammond and Dr. Auerbach declined to criticize the medical journal for returning their ar-

ticles. "We sent the articles to them in good faith, and we believe the American Medical Association also acts in good faith," said Dr. Auerbach.

Neither Dr. Hussey nor the two researchers would disclose details of the suggested changes. But Dr. Hammond said some of the objections centered on photographs accompanying the text. "There were complaints that the pictures were out of focus. But that's to be expected since the slides originally were in color but had to be printed in black and white (because) the magazine considers color pictures too expensive," he said.

Reviewers Called Fair

Commented Dr. Auerbach: "The reviewers were as fair as they thought they could be. I may not agree with them, but it's all part of the give and take."

When the articles will appear in print is undecided. Dr. Hussey said the journal will reconsider the articles if they are resubmitted with the revisions. Or, he said, the authors may decide to submit them to another publication.

The two researchers said they haven't decided which course they will take.

Dr. Hussey rejected any suggestion of pressure on the magazine either from the tobacco industry or the American Medical Association not to publish the reports. "There was no pressure whatsoever," he said.

Experts Consulted

The decision not to publish the articles, Dr. Hussey said, was made on the basis of reviews by about 12 independent authorities. These included an expert on veterinary medicine pathology, an expert in pulmonary disease and several pathologists. The number of reviewers, he said, was much greater than is usual for an article submitted for publication in the magazine "because of the great amount of publicity involved."

The experiment already has won the approval of the U.S. Surgeon General, who recently said it wasn't necessary to carry out a formal review of the experiment "to establish validity."

The Surgeon General said in a letter to Dr. Auerbach that "if the question at issue is whether human-type lung cancer has been discovered in the lungs of dogs exposed to cigaret smoke, then the answer is yes." This finding, he said, was the view of both Dr. John W. Berg, a pathologist with the National Cancer Institute, and Dr. Raymond Yesner, associate pro-

fessor of pathology at Yale University School of Medicine.

Dr. Auerbach said that the medical journal reviewers didn't dispute the claim that the tumors found in the dogs were of human type.

Impact Was Forecast

When the results of the experiment were first reported at a meeting of the American Cancer Society last February, a society spokesman said the experiment "should have a significant impact on the smoking of cigarets in this country, and will probably lead to a reassessment of advertising claims and policies of the cigaret industry."

A few weeks later the Tobacco Institute replied by challenging the Cancer Society to release the unpublished data on lung cancer in dogs for further scrutiny by "men of outstanding competence and integrity."

An institute spokesman said the "Tobacco Institute does not, and the public should not accept at face value the findings of this study

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